

Washington, D.C. – U.S. Congressman Mike Pence issued the following statement today supporting the Fallen Heroes of 9/11 Act (H.R. 3421):

"Like every American, I will never forget where I was on the morning of September 11, 2001. As a Member of Congress, that day my duties took me to Capitol Hill and to sights and sounds I will never forget.

"I witnessed the U.S. Capitol literally hemorrhaging with people running in every direction. I heard the deafening sounds of sirens all around and thunderous booms of military aircraft going supersonic at low altitude. And I saw the columns of mud-brown smoke billowing out of the Pentagon just across the Potomac River.

"As the world watched the towers fall in New York City, I witnessed the aftermath of the first attack on our nation's capital since the War of 1812. It was a day when evil and the cunning plans of the enemies of freedom had their moment. They thought they had unleashed violence sufficient to cow a great nation but they were wrong.

"What our enemies intended for harm gave birth to a season of national unity and a new generation of heroes, and we endeavor in part today to pay tribute to those heroes who fell on that fateful day with the Fallen Heroes of 9/11 Act.

"At a time of great national division, it is hard to imagine today what Washington, D.C., was like in the hours, weeks and months following September 11th, but the unity of that day did happen. I was there. I saw it.

"I watched as leaders set aside every divisive issue before the Congress and made plans to move resources and programs designed to meet the moment with bipartisan resolve. And that unity would animate the work of the Congress for months following the attack.

"A common enemy forged common ground and a new generation of American heroes. It is altogether fitting that this body take time from the divisive political battles of the day to remember those who were lost on the day that brought us together.

"Let us remember those who were lost and the citizen soldiers and public safety personnel who answered that day with courage and selflessness. Let us remember that day when politics and party affiliation did not matter, when we resolved together to address the momentous issues facing the nation.

"That is the true legacy of September 11, 2001, and by passing the Fallen Heroes of 9/11 Act, we honor those Americans who fell at the Pentagon, in the heart of our great city of New York or in a field in rural Pennsylvania with Congressional Gold Medals to be displayed at memorials on each site. We remember them today, and we think of their families."

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